AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, 18, 19 and 20 as follows:

1. (Original) A hearing aid forming a Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound signal that is obtained by dividing at least one portion of an input sound signal into a frequency band signal and subjecting one of the frequency band signals to noise, and outputting the Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound -signal.

2. (Original) A hearing aid forming a Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound signal that is obtained by dividing at least one portion of an input sound signal into a plurality of frequency band signals and subjecting the frequency band signals to noise, and outputting the Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound signals.

3. (Original) The hearing aid according to claim 1 or 2, wherein

a Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound signal in which a component of a -sound source signal is subjected to noise is generated by:

extracting a signal with a predetermined frequency band from the sound source signal by a first band filtering portion having a plurality of band filters;

extracting an amplitude envelope of each frequency band signal by an envelope extracting portion having an envelope extractor;

applying a noise source signal to a second filtering portion having a plurality of band filters to extract a noise signal corresponding to the predetermined frequency band;

multiplying an output from the first band filtering portion by an output from the second band filtering portion in a multiplying portion; and

accumulating outputs from the multiplying porton in an adding portion.

4. (Currently amended) The hearing aid according to claim 1 or 2 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein at least one of a
number of the band filters for division into frequency band signals and a frequency of a frequency band boundary can be changed at least through language.

5. (Currently amended) The hearing aid according to claim 1 or 2 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein at least one of a
number of the band filters for division into frequency band signals and a frequency of a frequency band boundary can be changed through automatic language recognition.

6. (Original) A training device outputting a Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound signal that is obtained by dividing at least one portion of an input sound signal into a frequency band signal and subjecting one of the frequency band signals to noise, receiving a response from a trainee and outputting a result as to whether the response is correct or incorrect.

7. (Original) A training device outputting a Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound signal that is obtained by dividing at least one portion of a sound signal into a' plurality of frequency band signals and subjecting the frequency band signals to noise, receiving a response from a trainee and outputting a result as to whether the response is correct or incorrect.

8. (Original) The training device according to claim 6 or 7, wherein a Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound signal in which a component of a
sound source signal is subjected to noise is generated by:
extracting a signal with a predetermined frequency band from the sound source signal by a first band filtering portion having a plurality of band filters;
extracting an amplitude envelope of each frequency band signal by an envelope extracting portion having an envelope

extractor;

applying a noise source signal to a second filtering portion having a plurality of band filters to extract a noise signal corresponding to the predetermined frequency band;

multiplying an output from the first band filtering portion by an output from the second band filtering portion in a multiplying portion; and

accumulating outputs from the multiplying portion in an adding portion.

9. (Currently amended) The training device according to claim 6 or 7 ~~any one of claims 6 to 8~~, wherein at least one of a number of the band filters for division into frequency band signals and a frequency of a frequency band boundary can be changed at least through language.

10. (Currently amended) The training device according to claim 6 or 7 ~~any one of claims 6 to 8~~, wherein at least one of a number of the band filters for division into frequency band signals and a frequency of a frequency band boundary can be changed through automatic language recognition.

11. (Original) A game device outputting a Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound signal that is obtained by dividing at least one portion of a sound signal into a frequency band signal and subjecting one of the frequency band signals to noise, receiving a response from a game player and outputting a result as to whether the response is correct or incorrect.

12. (Original) A game device outputting a Noise-Vocoded. Speech Sound signal that is obtained by dividing at least one portion of a sound signal into a plurality of frequency band signals and subjecting the frequency band signals to noise, receiving a response from a game player and outputting a result as to whether the response is

correct or incorrect.

13. (Original) The game device according to claim 11 or 12, wherein

a Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound signal in which a component of a sound source signal is subjected to noise is generated by:

extracting a signal with a predetermined. frequency band from the sound source signal by a first band filtering portion having a plurality of band filters;

extracting an amplitude envelope of each frequency band signal by an envelope extracting portion having an envelope extractor;

applying a noise source signal to a second filtering portion having a plurality of band filters to extract a noise signal corresponding to the predetermined frequency band;

multiplying an output from the first band filtering portion by an output from the second band. filtering portion in a multiplying portion; and

accumulating outputs from the multiplying portion in an adding portion.

14. (Currently amended) The game device according to claim 11 or 12 ~~any one of claims 11 to 13~~, wherein

at least one of a number of the band filters for division into

frequency band signals and a frequency of a frequency band boundary can be changed at least through language.

15. (Currently amended) The game device according to claim 11 or 12 ~~any one of claims 11 to 13~~, wherein

at least one of a number of the band filters for, division into

frequency band signals and a frequency of a frequency band boundary can be changed through automatic language recognition,

16. (Original) A sound output device, wherein

a Noise-Vocoded Speech Sound signal in which a component of a sound source signal is subjected to noise is generated by:

extracting a signal with a predetermined frequency band from the sound source signal by a first band filtering portion having a plurality of band filters;

extracting an amplitude envelope of each frequency band signal by an envelope extracting portion having an envelope extractor;

applying a noise source signal to a second filtering portion having a plurality of band filters to extract a noise signal corresponding to the predetermined frequency band;

multiplying an output from the first band filtering portion by an output from the second band filtering portion in a multiplying portion; and

accumulating outputs from the multiplying portion in an adding portion, and

wherein at least one of a number of the band filters for division into frequency band signals and a frequency of a frequency band boundary can be changed at least through language.

17. (Original) The sound output device according to claim 16, wherein at least one of a number of the band filters for division into frequency band signals and a frequency of a frequency band boundary can be changed through automatic language recognition.

18. (Currently amended) The hearing aid according to <u>claim 1 or 2</u> ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, comprising a sound signal extractor for extracting only a sound component from an input signal, wherein said at least one portion of an input sound signal is a signal of the sound component extracted by the sound signal extractor.

19. (Currently amended) The training device according to claim 6 or 7 ~~any one of claims 6 to 10~~, comprising a sound
signal extractor for extracting only a sound component from a signal, wherein said at least one portion of a sound signal is a signal of the sound component extracted by the sound signal extractor.

20. (Currently amended) The game device according to claim 11 or 12 ~~any one of claims 11 to 15~~, comprising
a sound signal extractor for extracting only a sound component from a signal,
wherein said at least one portion of a sound signal is a signal of the sound component extracted by the sound signal extractor.

21. (Original) The sound output device according to claim 16 or 17, comprising a sound signal extractor for extracting only a sound component from a
sound signal,
wherein the sound source signal from which the first band
filtering portion extracts is a signal of the sound component extracted by
the sound signal extractor,